

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawings include changes to Figs. 3, 6 and 7-12 and replace the original sheets, inclusive of Figs. 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9A-10, and 11-12.

Fig. 3, dimensions H and T, and reference number D have been added.

Fig. 6, dimensions H, T have been added.

Figs. 7-12 have been labeled as "Prior Art."

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (5)

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a pedal structure for a motor vehicle. A disclosed preferred embodiment of the invention described in connection with Figs. 1-4 comprises a pedal arm 20 pivoted when stepped on for transmitting a stepping-on force in a first direction D (see Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawing amendment), a pedal pad 30 mounted on the pedal arm for being stepped on by a driver's foot. The pedal pad includes a pedal pad upper portion 31, and a pedal pad side portion 32 which extends laterally with respect to the upper portion generally in the braking direction D. The pedal arm includes a pad mounting upper portion 22 for mounting the pedal pad, and a pad mounting side portion 23 extending laterally with respect to the pad mounting upper portion generally in the braking direction D for mounting the pedal pad side portion by a coupling 32b between the pedal pad side portion and said pad mounting side portion. The pad mounting side portion includes a protruding portion 23a disposed beneath the pedal pad side portion and protruding laterally with respect to the braking direction to have almost the same height as the thickness of the pedal pad side portion. The pad mounting upper portion, the pad mounting side portion, and the protruding portion comprise respective integral portions of the same piece of material.

Original independent claims 1 and 10 were rejected as anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art, and also as being anticipated by Swenson (U.S. 5,609,069). With respect to the admitted prior art, amended claim 1 recites that the pad mounting upper portion, the pad mounting side portion, and the protruding portion comprise respective integral portions of the same piece of material. That is in contrast to the admitted prior art according to Figs. 10-12 wherein a member 40 is

formed as a separate element with respect to the pad mounting portion 122, 123, 124. That member 40 is welded to the pad mounting portion, a step which is time consuming and laborious, thereby raising the cost and weight of the mechanism.

Accordingly, it is submitted that each of claims 1 and 10 patentably distinguishes over the admitted prior art.

With regard to Swenson, each of amended claims 1 and 10 recites a pad mounting side portion extending laterally with respect to the pad mounting upper portion generally in the braking direction for mounting the pedal pad side portion by a coupling between the pedal pad side portion and the pad mounting side portion. It is not seen that Swenson discloses such a coupling. Swenson's only coupling is at 90 between the pedal pad upper portion and the pad mounting upper portion.

Also, each of claims 1 and 10 recites that the protruding portion protrudes with respect to the pad mounting side portion in a direction laterally of the braking direction. In Swenson et al., the portion 74 of the pedal arm 72 which corresponds to the presently claimed pad mounting side portion, does not include a protruding portion which protrudes with respect to the pad mounting side portion in a direction laterally of the braking direction D, as recited in each of claims 1 and 10. Rather the part 74 is planar and includes no protruding portion.

Accordingly, it is submitted that each of claims 1 and 10 distinguishes over Swenson.

Figs. 7-12 of the drawings have been labeled as "Prior Art" as required in Section No. 2 of the Official Action.

The expression "swelling portion" has been changed to --protruding portion-- in the present description and claims as suggested in Section 3 of the Official Action.

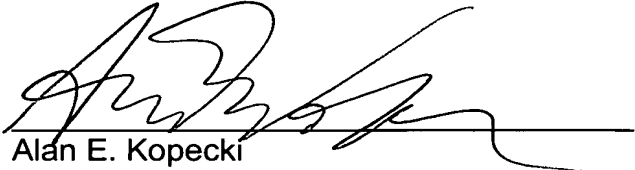
It is submitted that all informalities and objections have been overcome, and that the pending claims distinguish patentably over the prior art, and that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: December 15, 2005

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Kopecki', is written over a horizontal line.

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